

IAN POULTER (-14)

DOUG MILNE: We'll go ahead and get started. Ian Poulter, thanks for joining us after another incredible round today; followed a bogey-free 8-under 64 yesterday with another bogey-free today 64. If I did my counting correctly, you were 41 holes without a bogey, 17 birdies so far through three rounds. With all that said, got to be feeling pretty good about your position.

IAN POULTER: Yeah, I feel obviously very good. Day one was extremely frustrating from a putting standpoint. Played nicely, obviously played really well obviously the last two days but didn't really take anything out of the course. So I was very frustrated Thursday night, packed my suitcase to potentially go home Friday night.

Started early on Friday morning, didn't really have a lot of time to putt before the round of golf, obviously just playing the 18th. Felt something in the couple of putts that I did hit, just opened my shoulder slightly. From that point I've been able to stand over the putts, I've been seeing my lines a lot easier and been rolling a few putts in. So good golf has been rewarded obviously with rolling a few putts in, and obviously I'm in a nice position.

DOUG MILNE: Your scores obviously dictate this question, but you're making your third start here in the event, first since 2014. Is this the kind of golf course that suits your game well?

IAN POULTER: I'll be honest, I can't -- you know, I can't really remember how it played in 2014. Got here late Tuesday night. I only played nine holes in practice on Wednesday in the pro-am, didn't see the other nine. It's a course which is in incredible condition considering the rain we had, is drying out nicely. Yeah, I mean, it's in great shape. I can see why guys would want to play this before Augusta.

Q. Ian, you mentioned yesterday that you had no expectations coming into the weekend, you just said you wanted to go out and play golf and have fun. Did you feel like you were able to do that today? And the second part of the question is, is it easy to do that tomorrow considering you might be holding the lead?

IAN POULTER: I'm in a funny position, right? I said to you guys I've got no expectations going out on the golf course. I didn't have any expectations, I just went out to play golf. I'm going to do exactly the same tomorrow regardless of whether I'm leading or not. I know I'm going to have quite a few chances tomorrow and I'm going to need to take them.

There's a good group of players right now that are currently just behind that are going to be pressing, so I need to press as well. I need to be aggressive, stay doing the good stuff that

I've done and go and have some fun.

Q. No. 18 here is a tough, tough hole and it's thrown a lot of people offtrack. Did you have enough recollection from your two previous visits? Obviously you hit a perfect tee shot, and once you do that it's easy, I guess?

IAN POULTER: Yeah, I mean Friday morning was a little frustrating to come back on the course and the wind with an into as opposed to down.

Q. Totally different hole?

IAN POULTER: Completely different hole. And that was driver, 3-wood. So to go from driver, 3-wood, you know, was a bit of a shock. Today again the wind's completely different. So it's tough, it's a tough tee shot.

Q. Is this as good of back-to-back rounds as you've put together in a long time?

IAN POULTER: Yes.

Q. Certainly from a scoring standpoint but sometimes scoring --

IAN POULTER: From a putting standpoint, yes, absolutely.

Q. You said you had no expectations going into the weekend. What were your expectations when you had arrived here? You had a little frustration in Austin over the weekend.

IAN POULTER: I was a little warm under the collar, yeah. Some people getting in my head space, which is never good. Never good for my psyche anyway.

Yeah, maybe I was a bit angry on Thursday, maybe I was kind of forcing, trying to force my way into a tournament. Didn't work, had to rethink it, had to kind of blow the cobwebs out Thursday night and reset and go again.

Q. You would have played here the two previous times with Masters spots secured or no?

IAN POULTER: Really can't remember, but I would think so, yes.

Q. But a lot of guys obviously play here certainly off the European Tour just because it is a nice setup and you get some competition in. I know you don't want to think about the Masters, but is it possible to not think about it?

IAN POULTER: No, not thinking about it, not talking about it. I'm going to go out and have some fun tomorrow. There's a lot of ifs and buts.

Q. We've seen you get on a roll before with the putter. What's it like when you get in that zone? It seems like everything kind of comes together.

IAN POULTER: It's really nice. You know, it doesn't happen often or often enough, but when you stand over a putt and you see your line and you feel your line, the part of the game which is most valuable becomes easy. I'm not saying it is easy; it's not, it's really hard to find.

A simple little fix like opening the shoulders to stand there to fill the right line, to see the right line seems crazy that it's taken so long and all the little fiddling around like I do to get into a position like I'm in today. So hopefully I've found what is the key. I need to write it down and when it's not there I need to read it.

Q. What do you think the predominant emotion will be for you tomorrow?

IAN POULTER: I'll have no emotion at all. I'm going to go play golf. I'm in a no-lose situation. I haven't won a stroke play event on the PGA TOUR and I'm in a position where I've got an opportunity to. So people will back against me, that's fine, I'll go and do my job.

Q. I know you went back to the putter you used at the Ryder Cup last week.

IAN POULTER: Yes.

Q. You mentioned just the adjustment that you made, but how much is going back to the putter that you've had a lot of success with kind of come into the equation when you're putting as well as you are this week?

IAN POULTER: Gives me no excuses. So when you're tinkering, messing, trying, when you grab something that you know has done wonderful things, you have to take the onus then because you know it's not the putter, it's generally the person holding it. So I could go out, not blame anyone else and really try and find some good mojo, some good memories, some good feelings like I've had with that and take on the course because my game's in shape and I just need to hole a few putts and it's happening.

DOUG MILNE: Everybody good? Ian, thanks for your time.

IAN POULTER: Thanks, guys.